

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024CC002		
Name of Service:	Tinga Tinga Creche		
Address of Service:	Midleton Rugby Football Club, Towns Park, Midleton, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P25 DW67		
Name of Registered Provider:	Manuela Tortora		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	22/04/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	25	PM 23
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Admin Building, St Marys Health Campus, Cork, T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	M.O' Reilly		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
Authority to Inspect			
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).			
Conditions if applicable	N/A		

Description of service

Tinga Tinga Creche is a newly established early years service that opened in January 2024. It is registered to accommodate a maximum of 40 children aged from 0 to 3 years. Daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm each day Monday to Friday

The service operates from a single storey modular building that is located on the grounds of Midleton Rugby and Football Club situated in the outskirts of Midleton town, Co Cork. The service consists of two spacious playrooms named the Wobbler room and the Toddler room. There is an entrance hall area, designated separate sleep room, staff kitchenette/administration office. Adult and children's toilets and nappy changing facilities. There is a partially enclosed outdoor play area located beside the service.

Staffing

There were six staff employed to work directly with the early years children and the person in charge in the service. The registered provider is mainly based in the sister service but relieves staff at this service at lunch break times. The registered provider, person in charge and the adults who work directly with the early years children all hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) There is a named person in charge and a deputy to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived at the premise on the day of the announced inspection. The registered provider arrived later to cover staff when they went on lunch break in the Wobbler room, and she remained on site for the remainder of the inspection.

(2)

Eight staff files were reviewed. This included the registered provider and staff employed in the service.

(a) There were fourteen references on file from past employers in respect of the adults.

(b) There were two references from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the eight adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Three police vetting records were available on file for the three adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more, while over the age of eighteen years.

(4)

The seven adults who worked directly with the children and the registered provider all held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or an equivalent qualification, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(d) One of the police clearance records on file for one staff member had not been translated into English.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- A copy of the required police vetting record translated into english by a recognised translation company was forwarded to the early years inspectorate. In the registered provider written response she has stated, that management will ensure that all vetting documents that require translation will be completed prior to an adult commencing in the early years service.

Supporting documentation submitted

- A copy of the required police vetting record translated into english was submitted and deemed satisfactory.

Summary Comment

Correspondence and record received was examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 9 (2) (d) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1)
The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in each room on day of the inspection.

(2)

During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in each playroom. It was observed that the registered provider relieved staff for lunch in the Wobbler Room and the person in charge relieved staff for lunch in the Toddler Room.

Wobbler Room

There were 11 children present in the morning and 9 children in the afternoon. One child was aged under 12 months and 10 children were aged between 1 and 2 years with 3 adults in attendance.

Toddler Room

There were 14 children in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon. One children was aged less than 2 years and 12 children were aged between 2 years 3 years and 1 child was aged over 3 years with 3 adults in attendance.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) to (i)

A sample of 13 of the children's registration forms. were reviewed and found to contain all of the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (i) inclusive.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) The attendance of each child on a daily basis was recoded on an online application and a written record was maintained in each room as well.

(i) A weekly staff roster was maintained in the service. The staff roster indicated the staff in each room and the time they went on breaks each day. The name of the adult who relieved the staff in each room while on their break was also recorded.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- Up to five daily meal breaks were facilitated at the early years service, breakfast, a mid-morning snack, a hot lunch meal, an afternoon snack and an evening snack. This ensured that there were no gaps longer than two hours in between the children's mealtimes.
- The children appeared to enjoy the food offered and were afforded ample time to eat and drink at a relaxed pace. Staff members were readily available to provide assistance and reminders at this time and ensured that suitable crockery and cutlery were available, as well as feeding bibs for the younger children.
- Shortly after eating lunch, the children in the Toddler room were facilitated to sleep as needed, during a scheduled rest period. Children who did not wish to sleep were accommodated to participate in quieter activities and the atmosphere was relaxed for this quiet period.
- Staff were observed attentive to the personal care needs of the children for example the children's hands and faces were cleaned once they had finished eating and staff were observed to assist children to clean their noses.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff advised the inspector that the service operated in partnership with parents, with an online application where staff record the details of their child's day while in the service for example meals/snacks, activities and sleep.
- Staff were observed to interact in a caring manner with the children building their confidence and communication skills within the setting.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged and when children were calmly assisted to resolve minor conflicts.

Physical and Material Environment

- Both rooms in operation were child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out with special interest areas with materials largely accessible to the children.
- The Wobbler Room had adequate space for children to roll and crawl and walk. Colourful, sensory, and sound making age-appropriate play equipment was available. Other play equipment included books, activity centres, blocks, handheld toys, balls, dolls and wall mirrors.

- Toddler Room had interest areas that included soft area with a wall mounted book rack, home corner, construction/block and a fine motor area.
- Child sized tables and chairs were available in each room.
- Both rooms had a designated cosy areas for children to rest and relax as required.
- There is a partially covered outdoor play area provided beside the premise. The outdoor play area has artificial grass surface. Play equipment in the outdoor area included a slide, see-saws, wall mounted blackboard with chalk and play balls. There is another separate outdoor space within the outdoor play area for planting.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- An approved catering company provided the main hot meal to the service which was reheated on site. The food was served to the children by the adults in the service. All other food and snacks consumed on the premise is provided by the service.
- It was observed that the children were served adequate portions of meat balls in a tomato sauce with rice at lunch time in the Toddler room. There was the option of a pureed hot lunch meal for the children under one and a more textured bulky hot meal for the children over one year.
- The children were provided with appropriate cutlery and crockery at snack and mealtimes.
- Fridges were available for the storage of perishable items in both playrooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Upon the inspectors' arrival at the service, the main entrance door was found to have been secured and was maintained secure when not in use.
- Cleaning agents were stored on high-level shelving, out of the children's reach.
- First aid boxes were appropriately stored and inaccessible to children.
- Restrictive opening devices were in place on the low-level cupboards and fridges in both playrooms.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. Recorded water temperatures in the wash hand basins in the children's toilets and nappy changing areas were between 30 C to 35 C on day of inspection.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.
- The outdoor area was noted to be fully enclosed and secured.

Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities were available across the care rooms toilet and nappy changing facilities. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were in place. Handwashing by the children was observed before lunch in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms.
- Within the nappy changing areas, there was individually labelled storage for the children's toiletries.
- Pedal operated bins were in place for the disposal of paper towels.
- Cleaning records were in place in each of the rooms.

Safe Sleep:

- Ten minute sleep checks were recorded in writing for each sleeping child by the adults monitoring the sleeping children. The records reflected physical checks in relation to the colour, breathing and position of children, as they slept.
- The children aged under 2 years rest needs were facilitated in one designated sleep room for the children in the Wobbler room. There were adequate numbers of standard cots with safety mattresses for children under two that required a sleep with individual accompanying bed linen.

- Each of the safety mattresses was covered with a waterproof mattress cover.
- The children rest needs were met during a planned sleeping period when stacking beds were set up in the Toddler room.
- There were a sufficient number of stacking beds available with designated suitable bed linen for each child over 2 years who wanted a sleep while attending the service. There was an adequate distance between each stacking bed.
- The air temperature reading of the sleep room and the Toddler room where the children were observed sleeping was within the normal range of between 19°C to 19.6°C. Accepted air temperature range is between 16°C and 20°C for rooms where children are sleeping.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-
(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) There were two staff members present on day of inspection with a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR).

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was adequately insured, with insurance for 44 full day care children until 27/03/2025. The records detailed the category of service covered which was full day care, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.